

K A M T S C H A T K A. 141

There is likewise another creature in these seas resembling a whale, but smaller and slenderer: the *Russians* call it a wolf, and the *Kamtshadales*, chethak. Its fat is of such a nature, that, when swallowed, it presently passes insensibly. The natives sometimes use it as a medicine in case of costiveness, but oftener to play tricks with one another. They feed upon the flesh and tongue, which have not the same quality. 136
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Notwithstanding the great plenty of whales upon this coast, the scarcity of food is sometimes so great, that whole villages die of hunger. In the month of *April*, 1739, I saw a melancholy instance of their being obliged, out of necessity, to eat some poisonous whale's fat, at a village upon the river *Berefover*, called *Alaune*, where I observed the people all look pale, as if they had been sick for a long time; when I asked the reason, I was told, that just before my arrival one of the natives was killed by eating of whale's fat; and as all the rest had eat of the same, they dreaded the same fate. In about half an hour, a young healthy man began to groan and complain that his throat burnt; upon which the old women, who are the physicians there, fastened him with ropes to a ladder, and placed themselves on both sides of him with great clubs in their hands, with which they tossed firebrands out of the huts, and the wife of the sick person coming behind him, made several conjurations over his head, begging death to spare him: however he died the next day; but the other inhabitants, as I heard, recovered with difficulty after a long time. This accident did not greatly surprise me; I rather wondered that such things did not happen oftener, especially from those whales which are killed with poisoned darts. However the *Kamtshadales* think so little of the consequences, that they had rather risk their lives than be deprived of the pleasure of eating whale's fat. 262
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After the whales, we must mention the fish * *mokoe*, which at *Archangel* is called *akula*. It is about three fathoms long; 136

* *Canis Carcharias Astoris.*

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his belly, being, as he said, ordered to do it by the mushroom. 276

The *Kamtshadales* and the *Koreki* eat of it when they resolve to murder any body; and it is in such esteem among the *Koreki*, that they do not allow any one that is drunk with it to make water upon the ground, but they give him a vessel to save his urine in, which they drink, and it has the same effect as the mushroom itself. None of this mushroom grows in their country, so that they are obliged to purchase it of the *Kamtshadales*. Three or four of them are a moderate dose, but when they want to get drunk they take ten.

The women never use it; so that all their merriment consists in jesting, dancing, and singing. Their dance is in this manner: The two women that are to dance spread a mat in the middle of the room, and kneel down upon it opposite to one another, having a little tow in each hand. At first they begin to sing very low, moving a little their hands and shoulders; by degrees they raise their voice, and encrease the motions of their bodies, 'till they are quite out of breath and fatigued. This strange, uncouth entertainment, as it appeared to me, seemed greatly to delight the *Kamtschadales*: so strongly is every nation prejudiced in favour of its own customs.

In their love-longs they declare their passion to their lovers, 533
their grief, hope, and other affections. The women generally
compose them, and have clear, agreeable voices. Though they
do not want an inclination for musick, yet they have no musical 534
instrument, except a simple flute, and upon that they cannot
play any tune.

Another of their amusements is mimicking other people in their speaking, walking, and all other actions. Whenever a stranger comes to *Kamtschatka* they give him a new name, and observe every thing about him very carefully, which they mimic

for their diversion in all their entertainments.

210 *Of the NATIVES of*

538 for their diversion in all their entertainments. They sometimes
522 smoke tobacco, and tell stories; all which merriments are generally in the night time. They have also professed buffoons or jesters; but their wit is intolerably indecent and obscene.

CHAP. XV.

574 *Of their FRIENDSHIP, and HOSPITALITY*

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211 **W**HEN any one of this country seeks the friendship of another he invites him to his hut, and for his entertainment dresses as much of his best victuals as might serve ten people. As soon as the stranger comes into the hut, which is made very hot for his reception, both he and the landlord strip themselves naked: then the latter sets before his guest great plenty of victuals; and while he is eating it the host throws water upon red-hot stones, 'till he makes the hut insupportably hot. The stranger endeavours all he can to bear this excessive heat, and to eat up all the victuals that were dressed; and the landlord endeavours to oblige his friend to complain of the heat, and to beg to be excused from eating all up. It is reckoned a dishonour to the landlord, and a mark of niggardliness, if he should be able to accomplish this. He himself eats nothing during the whole time, and is allowed to go out of the hut; but the stranger is not suffered to stir 'till he acknowledges himself overcome. At these feasts they over-eat themselves so much, that for three days they cannot bear the
574 light of victuals, and are scarce able to move, from repletion.

576 When the stranger is gorged, and can no longer endure the
431 heat, he purchases his dismissal with presents of dogs, cloaths,

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